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SUMMARY

Multiple Use Management Decisions

Owyhee Planning Unit

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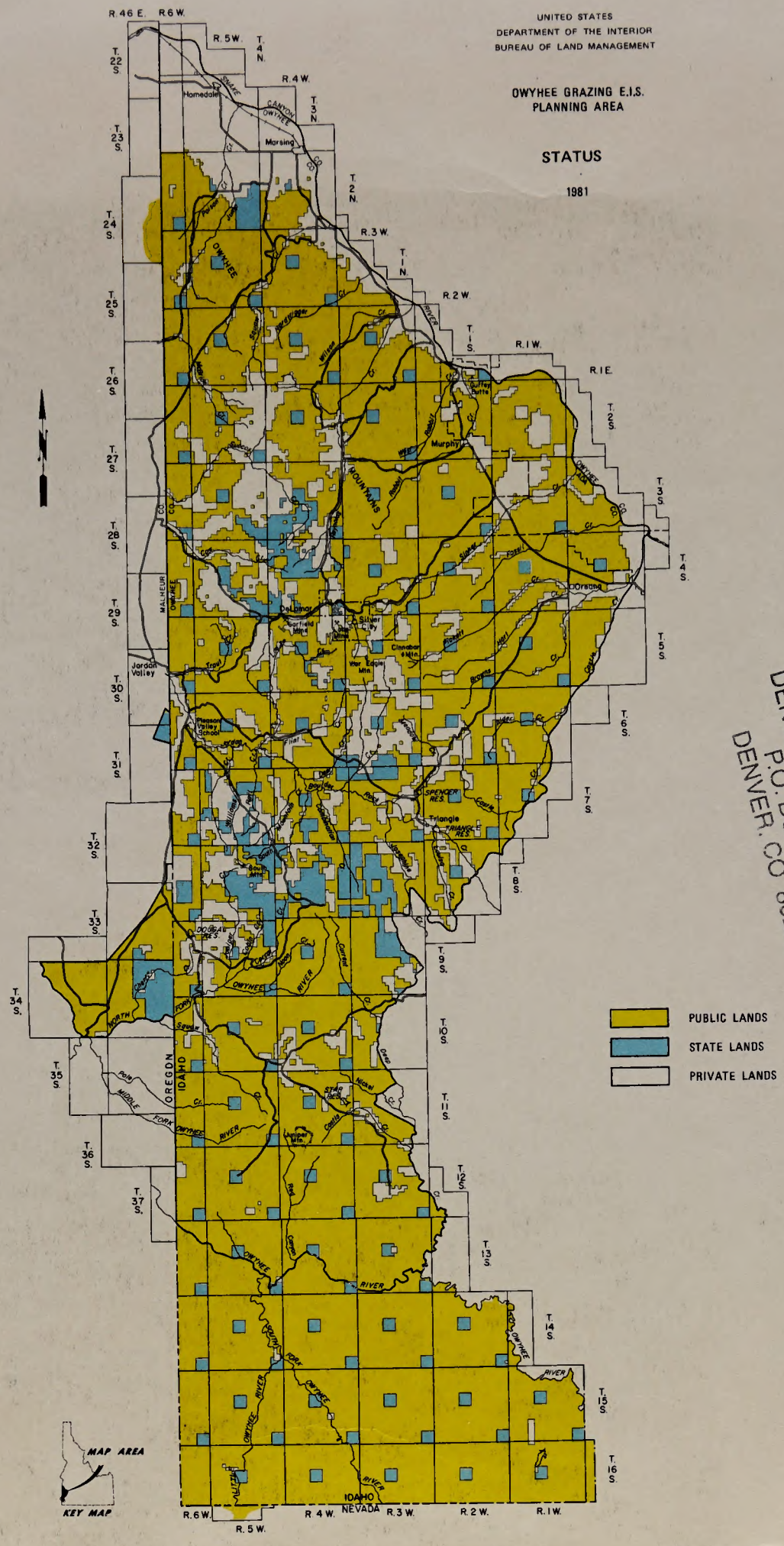

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As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has basic responsibilities for water, fish, land, wildlife, mineral, park and recreational resources. Indian and Territorial Affairs are other concerns of America's "Department of Natural Resources."

The Department works to assure the wisest choice in managing all our resources so each will make its full contribution to a better United States – now and in the future.

The Bureau of Land Management, an agency of the Department of the Interior, is charged with the administration of programs for conservation and development of the public lands and resources. In Idaho, there are six Bureau of Land Management districts with offices in Boise, Burley, Idaho Falls, Salmon, Shoshone and Coeur d'Alene.

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Cover: Owyhee Canyon

The DeLamar Mine, the second largest producing silver mine in Idaho

INTRODUCTION

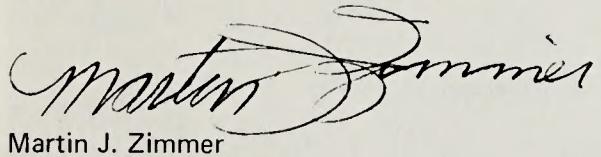
Land use decisions for the Owyhee Management Framework Plan (MFP) are summarized in this booklet.

All decisions are not presented because of their number and complexity. Only the decisions having a significant impact upon land uses are summarized.

The Owyhee MFP and all related documents are located at the Boise District Office in Boise. You are invited to visit the office and review the MFP at your convenience. The Owyhee Area staff and the District Manager's staff are available to discuss the decisions and help with the review of the MFP.

The MFP will be revised, as necessary, to meet the needs of the resources and the people and to cope with changing local and national conditions. Major revisions will be made with full public participation.

I wish to thank all who assisted in developing the MFP with special thanks to those who served on the many ad hoc committees and so faithfully attended the public meetings. We will look forward to working with you in the future to prepare and update the Boise District land use plans.



Martin J. Zimmer
District Manager
Boise District

General Description

The Owyhee Resource Area contains 1,351,986 acres of public land managed by the Bureau of Land Management in Owyhee County. Also within the area are 140,938 acres of State land and 326,696 acres of private land. The BLM also has subsurface jurisdiction on additional acreage where mineral rights have been reserved for the Federal Government. The following table tabulates these acreages for the resource area.

Public Land	State	Private	Withdrawn	Total
1,351,986	140,938	326,696	34,542	1,819,620

The public land pattern varies from widely scattered tracts surrounded by private land to solid blocks of public land with only sections 16 and 36 reserved to the State of Idaho. This land pattern creates special management problems, especially in the areas of patented mining claims and scattered isolated tracts. Resource area wide, 75% of the land surface is managed by BLM, but in certain areas the percent will vary from 2% to 100%. Public lands are now used for mining, livestock grazing, wildlife habitat, timber production, watershed, fisheries, and outdoor recreation.

Livestock grazing is the major source of income, followed by gold and silver mining and agriculture.

The major vegetative types found in the area are sagebrush/grass, mountain brush, western juniper, salt desert shrub, riparian meadow, and Douglas fir. Annual precipitation varies from 7 inches in the salt desert shrub type near Oreana and Murphy to over 40 inches at the higher elevations on the Silver City and South Mountain ranges. The elevation varies from 2,200 feet at the Snake River to 8,403 in the Silver City range.

Major Issues and Problems

Major issues and problems result from several interrelated items. These are present and potential land use conflicts, unavoidable environmental impacts resulting from resource development, and social and economic impacts on local communities and life styles.

The issues and problems were identified and addressed during the BLM's land use plan development utilizing public participation. The following management decision section describes these issues or problems and the decisions reached for each type of resource.

Significant Management Decisions

Management decisions were based upon the capability of the land to produce, the ability of the land to respond to various types of management, and the effect various decisions could have on the resources and the human element. Soils, climate, topography, vegetation, geology, wildlife and public demand were the major considerations in development of the Owyhee MFP decisions.

The following sections summarize the main land use decisions developed in the Owyhee MFP. In addition, at the end of this booklet, we have enclosed a summary statement of each land use decision by resource activity and a list of corresponding overlay maps. These summary statements can also be used as an index and reference for those people wishing to review the complete official MFP document and overlay maps on file at the BLM Boise District Office.

Minerals

The minerals program includes the following activities:

1. Exploration, development and production phases of mineral materials and disposal through lease, patent, permit, or sale;

2. Coordination of mineral development and other land uses;

3. Rehabilitation of mining areas and implementation of the 3809 surface management regulations;

4. Evaluation and processing of mineral patent applications and appraisals.

Opportunities for mineral development and exploration are significant in the area. Gold, silver, oolite, zeolite, and humate are the most prominent of the mineral resources.

The Silver City area and the Owyhee front contain the primary gold and silver producing ore deposits. The second largest producing silver mine in the United States (DeLamar Silver Mine – MAPCO) is located in the Silver City range.

Potential for both oil and gas and geothermal development exists.

Major mineral land use decisions include the following:

SPECIFIC AREAS HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED TO BE MANAGED PRIMARILY FOR THEIR LOCATABLE AND LEASABLE MINERAL VALUES.

These areas contain known mineral resources which may be developed with minimal adverse impacts to other resources. Present technology and administrative controls will provide mitigation of adverse impacts in most instances.

Mining exploration, two miles south of the DeLamar Mine

KEEP PUBLIC LANDS OPEN FOR EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF MINERAL RESOURCES IN THE BALANCE OF THE RESOURCE AREA.

Specific mineral deposits are not identified in a portion of the resource area. The potential for mineral deposits supports the decision to keep public lands open for further exploration and development.

ESTABLISH COMMUNITY PITS FOR SAND, GRAVEL AND BUILDING STONE.

An increasing demand and need exists for this type of material by individuals and construction companies. Community pits will satisfy this demand and allow orderly extraction of these materials.

FORESTRY

The Silver City range and South Mountain range both support stands of Douglas fir and Alpine fir. These stands would sustain a commercial annual harvest of 1 million board feet. In addition there are approximately 256,000 acres of juniper which is producing an unknown amount of posts, poles, and wood fiber.

The fir stands are located primarily as small scattered stands. The majority of these stands were harvested during the mining era of 1850 to 1920. The regrowth is primarily 60–80 years old. The stands are primarily on steep north and west exposures.

In addition to the stocked stands of fir (7,400 acres), there is an additional area classed as non-stocked (14,700 acres) which is suitable for commercial forest production.

Commercial sales have been limited to several small private sales in recent years. The nearest mills are located at Hines, Oregon or Boise and Emmett, Idaho. Because of the scattered stands, steep topography, and long haul distances, there have been limited commercial timber sales.

Major forestry decisions include the following:

MANAGE COMMERCIAL FOREST STANDS TO MEET FUTURE MARKET NEEDS AND ALLOCATE COMMERCIAL STANDS, POST AND POLE AREAS, AND FIREWOOD AREAS.

Commercial demand in this area is limited due to distance and transportation costs. As markets develop, this area will be of value for timber production. Management of the existing stand and development of the non-stocked areas will be necessary now to assure a timber supply in the future. Active sales programs for commercial post and firewood sales will enable maximum development of the juniper resource.

REFOREST POTENTIALLY SUITABLE COMMERCIAL FOREST LANDS.

An active reforestation and timber stand improvement program will assure the optimum forest resource for future generations.

Typical stand of Douglas fir found in the South Mountain and Silver City ranges

Range Management

The range management program administers the livestock grazing use on the forage produced on public lands. This includes authorizing and supervising proper grazing use, developing livestock management facilities and forage improvement practices, and protecting the forage from overuse, noxious weed infestation, pests, disease, and use out of season which is detrimental to sustained production.

The Owyhee Resource Area staff administers use on 146 allotments by 87 grazing operators. The allotments range in size from 25 acres to 203,800 acres with grazing qualifications ranging from 8 AUMs to 33,305 AUMs. Of the operators, two run both cattle and sheep and the remainder run cattle exclusively. Public land administered by the BLM supplies 32% of the total forage consumed by livestock in the resource area.

The forage produced on public land is critical to the livestock industry because of quantity and period of time available. Most operators turn out onto public lands as early as possible. This is necessary in order to get the livestock off the farm lands early enough to plant crops and make a hay crop.

In addition to the early spring use, the area is grazed during the late spring, summer, fall and winter depending on the pasture and the type of operation. The early spring areas produce new growth as early as mid March with range readiness as early as April in the rotation pastures. Seed ripe of key grass species will range from late June to mid July depending upon species and elevation.

Presently over 90% of the area is in a poor to fair condition class based upon the potential of the area. Approximately 55% of the area was in a downward trend at the time the last complete trend study was made (1977). However, a significant portion of this area is now in either a static or upward trend as a result of grazing rotation systems implemented in the past four years.

The primary rangeland objective is to continue improvement and to achieve good condition of the vegetative resource.

The major range management decisions designed to achieve this objective include the following:

IMPLEMENT ROTATION GRAZING SYSTEMS ON 961,062 ACRES, ESTABLISH SPECIFIC SEASON OF USE ON 32,441 ACRES, AND MANAGE 21,081 ACRES IN CONJUNCTION WITH PRIVATE LANDS. MANAGEMENT WILL BE ESTABLISHED IN COOPERATION WITH THE RANGE USER.

Intensive management by the BLM will be applied on 95% of the area. These allotments (70) are predominantly Federal range suitable for establishment of rotation grazing systems. Less intensive management by BLM will be applied to 15 allotments. These allotments are predominantly State or private land and either the State of Idaho or SCS would establish grazing management criteria with BLM serving as a cooperator.

LIMIT ORV USE IN SPRING LIVESTOCK AREAS.

The ORV use in early spring grazing allotments has resulted in excessive livestock movement and disturbance. Limiting ORV use for a short period of time in the spring will alleviate this problem. ORV use would be permitted the balance of the year.

ALLOCATION OF AVAILABLE FORAGE AND ESTABLISHMENT OF SEASON OF USE FOR EACH ALLOTMENT WOULD BE AS DESCRIBED IN THE PROPOSED ACTION OF THE OWYHEE GRAZING EIS AND IS SUMMARIZED AS FOLLOWS:

	Present Active Grazing Preference (AUMs)	Present Use (AUMs)	Proposed Allocation (AUMs)	Projected 20 Year Allocation (AUMs)
Livestock	113,122	105,009*	78,336	142,276
Wildlife		1,135	2,152	2,152
Wild Horses		4,225	2,329	2,329
TOTAL	113,122	110,369	82,817	146,757

* Figure represents the 5 year average licensed active use.

On intensive management allotments 50% of the available forage has been reserved for watershed protection and other non-consumptive uses. On less intensively managed allotments 60% to 70% of the available forage has been reserved for non-consumptive uses.

Grazing use adjustments will be phased in over a 5 year period following consultation and coordination with all affected interests.

Grazing systems are proposed to minimize the adverse impacts of early spring grazing. Livestock turn out dates have been adjusted to be approximately two weeks later on many allotments to reduce competition for forage during the early spring. Dates for livestock removal have been set for earlier in the year to reduce forage conflicts on critical deer winter range.

INITIATE SAGEBRUSH AND JUNIPER CONTROL ON 172,000 ACRES. IN ADDITION, CONTROL SAGEBRUSH/JUNIPER AND RESEED 67,000 ACRES WITH A GRASS/FORB/SHRUB MIXTURE. DEVELOP THE FOLLOWING LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT FACILITIES: 81 SPRINGS, 90 RESERVOIRS, 24 MILES OF PIPELINE, 100 WATERING TROUGHS, AND 153 MILES OF FENCE. CATTLEGUARDS WOULD BE PLACED ON ALL ROADS USED INTENSIVELY BY THE PUBLIC.

These management facilities are needed to implement the rotation grazing management program. The land treatment program is needed to establish vegetation for surface protection and to reach the desired "good" ecological condition class.

FORAGE WILL NOT BE ALLOCATED TO LIVESTOCK ON 8,124 ACRES OF UNSUITABLE RANGE OR ON 1,172 ACRES OF POTENTIALLY SUITABLE RANGE.

The unsuitable range cannot be used by livestock without causing overuse on adjacent areas. The potentially suitable area may be allocated after development of livestock water.

MANAGE THE OWYHEE WILD HORSE HERD BY ALLOCATING FORAGE FOR A MINIMUM OF 118 HEAD AND MAXIMUM OF 178 HEAD.

The area of use, forage resources and space needs of the wild horses limit the horse herd to a maximum of 178 head. The viable herd concept establishes a minimum of 118 head for the Owyhee herd because of band size and location.

MANAGE LAND USES TO PROTECT AND ENHANCE RARE AND ENDANGERED PLANTS.

Although it is our goal, the improvement of the ecological site condition may actually be detrimental to some rare and endangered plants.

Watershed

The watershed protection program addresses the balance of soil, vegetation and the quality, quantity, and period of water produced from a watershed. These three factors affect both on site and downstream use and value of water. Management involves manipulation of vegetation to affect the three characteristics of water production (quality, quantity, and time of production).

The Silver City range divides the watershed. North of the range the drainages flow directly into the Snake River. South of the range the drainages flow into the Owyhee River and then into the Snake River.

The soil erodibility class on the Snake River sediments (450,000 acres) is a major concern. On 18 of the sites in this area, accelerated erosion is occurring. These are located in the Rabbit Creek, Fossil Creek, and Castle Creek areas, and adjacent to the Snake River. The remaining 71 sites in the Snake River sediment area fall into the moderately active condition. The balance of the resource area falls into the slight and stable erosion condition classes.

The primary decision related to watershed is:

MAINTAIN SOIL STABILITY THROUGH IMPROVEMENT OF VEGETATIVE COVER WITH A RESULTING REDUCTION OF WIND AND WATER EROSION ON 450,000 ACRES.

The Snake River sediments are a primary concern due to the present or potential for accelerated erosion.

Wildlife

The area contains a wide variety of wildlife. The mule deer herd is one of the larger herds in the state of Idaho. Antelope are found in moderate numbers within the sagebrush communities. A California bighorn herd is found on the Owyhee River and its tributaries. A remnant elk herd is also located in the Owyhee Mountains.

Other wildlife include waterfowl, upland game birds, small game, predators, and mountain lion. Bald eagles winter along the Snake River and a portion of the Birds of Prey Natural Area falls within the resource area. A number of sensitive species can also be found in the area.

Major decisions related to the wildlife resources include the following:

ALLOCATE FORAGE FOR WILDLIFE SPECIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MANAGEMENT NUMBERS ESTABLISHED JOINTLY WITH THE STATE OF IDAHO AND BLM.

Forage must be reserved during all seasons for the desired wildlife populations. Although these numbers do not reach the populations of the 1950's, the game management personnel for the State of Idaho and BLM wildlife biologists feel the population predictions approximate the numbers which will properly utilize existing forage resources.

MANAGE TO OBTAIN "GOOD" ECOLOGICAL CONDITION ON MOST WILDLIFE HABITATS.

A "good" ecological condition will be the best mix of all resource needs (range, watershed, and wildlife). Although some wildlife species may thrive on a lower range condition, the ideal multiple use mix will not be reached at a lower condition class.

California Bighorns, Owyhee County

SHRUB UTILIZATION ON CRUCIAL DEER WINTER RANGES WILL BE LIMITED TO 30% BY LIVESTOCK.

This utilization level assures a winter forage supply for the deer herd during a high stress period.

MANIPULATE SAGEBRUSH AND JUNIPER STANDS TO PROVIDE OPTIMUM FOOD/COVER BALANCES.

Extensive stands of dense sagebrush and juniper are not ideal wildlife habitat. Mixed stands and "edge" provide a more balanced environment.

CLOSE CRUCIAL GAME HABITATS (WINTER, STRUTTING GROUNDS, ETC.) TO UNRESTRICTED ORV USE.

The restriction of ORV use on wildlife concentration areas during a critical period is necessary to reduce stress and maintain populations.

ALLOCATE FORAGE FOR BIGHORN EXPANSION AND ELK REINTRODUCTION BASED UPON STUDIES CONDUCTED BY THE IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME AND BLM RESOURCE MANAGEMENT GOALS.

Forage will be reserved based upon favorable feasibility studies and in accordance with BLM resource management goals and needs.

MANAGE ISOLATED TRACTS OF PUBLIC LAND AS NEEDED FOR UPLAND GAME HABITAT.

With the increase in "clean" farming practices, native brushland adjacent to farmland is needed for upland game bird cover (nesting and wintering) and food. Unless specifically required for a higher public use, these tracts will be retained in public ownership. Grazing by domestic livestock will be permitted only if necessary to improve the upland game habitat.

Lands

The lands program workload includes agricultural development through the DLE and Carey Act programs, agricultural trespass problems associated with adjacent cropland, rights-of-way, and occupancy trespass. Lands disposal actions other than DLE and Carey Act are state exchange, private exchange, Bureau motion sales, and issuance of various use permits. An area-wide withdrawal review program is also in progress.

Major lands program decisions include the following:

RESTORE WITHDRAWN LANDS TO MULTIPLE USE MANAGEMENT WHEN NO LONGER NEEDED FOR A SPECIFIC USE.

The withdrawn lands should be restored for management under all land laws when not needed for a specific use. This includes reclamation withdrawals, water reserves, stock driveways, etc.

PROVIDE PUBLIC LANDS TO MEET THE NEEDS OF STATE, LOCAL AND NON-PROFIT GROUPS.

Subject areas include landfills, gravel sources, Pleasant Valley school site, Marsing Rod and Gem Club, utility corridors and Highway 95 realignment.

DISPOSE OF TRACTS IDENTIFIED UNDER THE UNINTENTIONAL TRESPASS ACT PROGRAM WHERE CONDITIONS ARE MET BY APPLICANT.

These are tracts which have been used for agricultural use for many years and are not needed for a specific public use.

DISPOSE OF OR LEASE LANDS FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT ACCORDING TO SPECIFIC SUITABILITY CRITERIA.

Potential agricultural lands will be made available for crop production where no specific public needs are identified. Care must be taken to assure tracts valuable as critical wildlife habitat are not transferred out of Federal control.

IMPROVE FEDERAL LAND MANAGEMENT THROUGH EXCHANGES WITH PRIVATE PARTIES AND WITH THE STATE OF IDAHO.

Management opportunities for both the State of Idaho and BLM are improved by blocking management control areas. This is also true with the blocking of land ownership through a private exchange program. Several resource activities, such as range management, supports the consolidation of land ownership patterns to facilitate the implementation of other management decisions.

Access

The majority of the roads in the resource area cross private land on numerous occasions. Presently there are no easements reserved and consequently no legal access for the Bureau or the public.

The major access decision is as follows:

APPRAISE AND PURCHASE EASEMENTS ON ALL ROADS IDENTIFIED IN THE TRANSPORTATION PLAN.

A major inventory and centerline survey program is needed to establish a public access system to public lands. As public pressure increases, an increasing number of roads across private land are being closed to public use. In addition to public needs, legal access is needed for the resource management program.

Fire Management

Fire management is an increasingly valuable program in vegetative manipulation due to cost and results. The use of fire in controlling sagebrush and juniper invasion has proven to be very effective in past trials.

The major fire management decision is as follows:

IMPLEMENT THE LIMITED FIRE SUPPRESSION PLAN FOR THE AREA AND USE FIRE AS A MANAGEMENT TOOL TO ACHIEVE OBJECTIVES IN OTHER RESOURCE PROGRAMS.

Fire can be used beneficially to manipulate the vegetation in order to achieve a "good" ecological site condition. Fire may also have one of the most effective benefit/cost ratios of the brush control practices. Also, fire is considered to be an environmentally preferred option in controlling brush.

Cultural Resources

More than 500 prehistoric and historic sites have been recorded in the Owyhee Planning Unit. Prehistoric human occupation of the area may extend back more than 12,000 years. First contacts with the indigenous Shoshone and Northern Paiute Amerinds were by the British, French, and American fur trading companies in the early 19th century. Twenty years later, by 1840, emigrants were traveling the Oregon Trail route first explored by the fur trappers. The acquisition of the Oregon Country by the United States in 1846 further stimulated westward travel over the trail. By 1884 when rail service had become available to travelers, over 12,000 emigrants had passed through the area on their strenuous trip along the trail.

Discovery of gold by Michael Jordan in May of 1863 caused the "Owyhee Gold Rush" which brought over 2,500 miners to the Owyhee Mountains from prospects in the Boise Basin area. Silver was soon discovered, and towns such as Boonville, DeLamar, Ruby City, and Silver City were established. Silver City, the largest of the communities, grew to have 215 structures during the late 1800's and early 1900's. Today Silver City has only two buildings being used as year-round residences, and 68 buildings occupied seasonally, many by descendents of the earlier residents.

To supply the mining communities, a supply network of roads, river ferries, stage and freight lines were built. Irrigated fruit and produce ranches grew up in the Marsing and Homedale areas. Cattle and sheep operations in the Jordan Valley and Juniper Mountain areas provided meat for the local mining communities. Livestock was also trailed to Murphy, today the county seat of Owyhee County, for shipment by rail to points throughout the U.S. This railroad extension line remained in use from 1902–1928. At one time, Murphy moved a larger number of cattle and sheep through the railroad shipping yards than any other point in the U.S. Today livestock grazing constitutes the predominant use of public land in Owyhee County.

Major cultural resource decisions include the following:

NOMINATE IDENTIFIED AREAS FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISTRICT STATUS.

PRESERVE AND MAINTAIN THE HISTORIC INTEGRITY OF THE OREGON TRAIL AND ASSOCIATED HISTORIC SITES.

The Oregon Trail has been designated a National Historic Trail and all visible remnants comprise a National Register property.

PRESERVE AND MAINTAIN THE HISTORIC INTEGRITY OF HOMESTEADS, EARLY RANCHING AND MINING SETTLEMENTS.

Historic sites such as Silver City are an important and often neglected part of Western heritage. Many of the sites are eligible for inclusion on the National Register.

Wilderness

The wilderness inventory was in progress at the time this MFP was being prepared. Therefore, the only wilderness decision made in the MFP was to identify all units within the resource area which qualify for designation as Wilderness Study Areas. This decision has been completed and 12 WSAs with a total acreage of 254,000 acres have been identified. Recommendations on the suitability of these areas for wilderness will be made through an amendment to this MFP. After these recommendations are analyzed in a wilderness environmental impact statement, they will be forwarded to Congress which will decide what areas, if any, should be designated as wilderness. Until Congress takes this final action, all WSAs will be subject to the Interim Management Policy. The guidelines established in this policy may limit and delay the implementation of some MFP decisions, such as certain range improvement projects which have been identified for construction within WSA areas that have been recommended as unsuitable for wilderness designation.

MANAGE RIPARIAN HABITAT TO ACHIEVE A "GOOD" RIPARIAN CONDITION CLASS THROUGH GRAZING MANAGEMENT, FENCING, AND LOG STRUCTURES. RESTORE MEADOWS THROUGH WATER CONTROL STRUCTURES AND GRAZING MANAGEMENT.

Riparian habitat provides a key item in the life cycle of most wildlife species. Upgrading and maintaining these areas in a good condition class is essential for wildlife habitat management and to prevent the type of destruction as shown by the accompanying photo.

Severe gully erosion resulting in dessication of riparian areas

Recreation

The Owyhee mountains and rivers provide a key recreation use area for southwest Idaho. In addition to providing excellent hunting and fishing opportunities, the area provides wild and scenic river, primitive recreation, off-road vehicle, wilderness, and historic opportunities. The Owyhee River has been recommended for wild and scenic river consideration, there are 254,000 acres being studied for wilderness designation, the Silver City and DeLamar areas are registered on the National Register of Historic Places, and the Oregon Trail is designated as a National Historic Trail. Off-road vehicle opportunities are especially good near Murphy, while snowmobile use occurs in the Owyhee Mountains.

Hunting and fishing opportunities range from warm water species to cold water species and waterfowl to big game, which include the California bighorn sheep and mountain lion.

Major recreation management decisions include the following:

DESIGNATE AREAS TO PROTECT RECREATION VALUES. THESE AREAS INCLUDE THE OWYHEE RIVER AREA, SILVER CITY HISTORIC DISTRICT, OREGON TRAIL, AND AREAS OFFERING PRIMITIVE AND SEMI–PRIMITIVE RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES.

These areas have been identified as "special recreation management areas" to assure that their recreation values are protected. Other designations being considered are Wild and Scenic River, Wilderness Areas, National Historic Districts, and Natural Areas.

ESTABLISH ORV PARKS AND DEVELOP AN ORV USE PLAN FOR THE AREA.

A resource area plan and detailed recreation area management plans are needed to establish reasonable use patterns of both wheeled vehicles and snow machines. Several ORV parks will be established to accommodate motorcycle use.

DEVELOP A RECREATION AREA MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE SILVER CITY AREA.

This area is heavily used by recreationists. The complicated land tenure situation involving private homes and the historic district in an active mining area must be addressed from the homeowner, historic, county government, mining claimant, and Federal land management aspects.

DEVELOPMENT OF USE FACILITIES IN THE SILVER CITY, JUMP CREEK FALLS, MOTORCYCLE PARKS, AND OREGON NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL AREAS.

Facilities are needed in these areas to accommodate the present established use.

MANAGE THE AREA TO PROTECT SCENIC VALUES.

Activities on public lands will be conducted in accordance with the Bureau's Visual Resource Management System.

Coordination

Public review was an important part in the preparation and approval of this management framework plan. Throughout the planning process, numerous Federal, State and local agencies, as well as member of the general public, offered suggestions to improve the plan. The Owyhee Area and Boise District staffs contacted representatives of these groups to ensure that planning efforts and management decisions did not conflict with the land use plans of other agencies. The staff considered all comments submitted and used as many of them as possible.

Management Actions

This plan will be followed by on-the-ground actions. Some decisions in the plan may require more detailed planning before implementing. Some decisions have already been or are being implemented.

Development projects are subject to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act. An environmental assessment will be prepared for each action, whether initiated by an outside applicant or the BLM, unless adequately covered in an existing assessment.

The MFP decisions will be used to program and budget for the annual work plan. Because on-the-ground actions depend on funding by Congress, it may be some time until some decisions are implemented.

In response to changing resource conditions and management requirements, the plan will be updated and management decisions will be revised as new information becomes available. The public will have opportunities to participate in the planning process when major revisions are made.

OWYHEE

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN

INDEX OF LAND USE DECISIONS

SEPTEMBER, 1981

Summary statements, by their nature, are incomplete and can be misinterpreted. They are best used as an introduction and a reference to the official MFP document. In addition, they give an indication of the variety of actions addressed in the MFP.

The only clear and accurate presentation of the management decisions made for the Owyhee Planning Unit is contained in the official MFP document. The accompanying index has been prepared as a tool for the study of the MFP document. It is organized by individual resource activities (Minerals, Range, Lands, etc.) and it outlines the objectives, land use decisions, and overlay maps prepared for each resource activity.

Objectives (Obj.) are statements of the end results that are desired for each resource program for the MFP area. The land use decisions, which are listed below the objectives, are the "on-the-ground" actions that are necessary to achieve the objectives.

Decisions which pertain to inventories, studies, or policies are not included in this summary but are available for review at the Boise District Office.

Please call or contact the Owyhee Area Manager (334-1582) if you have any questions regarding the summary statements or the official objectives and decisions in the Owyhee MFP.

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60	Land Recommendations

MINERALS INDEX

Obj. 1 - Further mineral production in ORA
M-1.2 Manage identified areas primarily for mineral values (see Overlay 27)

Obj. 2 - Continue humate and bentonite extraction
M-2.2 Manage areas for humate and bentonite values

Obj. 3 - Manage salable sand and gravel, building stone deposits
M-3.2 Establish community pits (Overlay 61)

Obj. 4 - Allow future development of Opalene Culch bentonite, Castle Creek oolite and pumice/pumicite deposits
M-4.2 Manage areas on overlay #27 for mineral values

Obj. 5 - Encourage further exploration and development of mineral deposits in ORA
M-5.1 Issue mineral leases within ORA upon application
M-5.2 Manage public lands within ORA for their locatable mineral values

OVERLAY #	MINERALS OVERLAYS
4	Minerals
24	Status
25	Mineral resource inventory (locatables-salables)
27	Mineral management opportunities
61	Mineral Recommendations - MFP

FORESTRY INDEX

Obj. 1 - Manage commercial forest resources to meet future market demands
F-1.1 Allocate commercial timber stands, firewood, and fence post cutting areas
F-1.3 Reforest potentially commercial forest lands

OVERLAY #	FORESTRY OVERLAYS
28	Forest lands inventory
31	Productive forest land management opportunities

RANGE INDEX

Obj. 1 - Develop better range mgmt. techniques
RM-1.1 Intensively manage 961,062 acres; place 32,441 acres under custodial management; and manage 21,081 acres as FFR
RM-1.2 Acquire 92,247 acres of isolated state and private land; dispose of 71,649 acres isolated public land; acquire access rights
RM-1.12 Restrict recreation ORV use in identified spring allotments while cattle are on the allotment.

Obj. 2 - Improve vegetative condition
RM-2.1a Allocation of forage by allotment
RM-2.2 Determination of season-of-use by allotment
RM-2.3 Consolidate 19 allotments to create 9 new allotments
RM-2.4 Initiate intensive management on 961,062 acres by developing grazing systems as identified

RM-2.5 Initiate brush and juniper control on 172,000 acres and brush control and seed 67,000 acres
RM-2.8 Oevelop livestock management facilities needed for AMP and grazing system implementation
RM-2.9 Oo not allocate forage on 8,124 unsuitable acres and 1,172 acres of potentially suitable range

Obj. 3 - Protect and manage wild horses
RM-3.1 Intensively manage wild horses for the optimum number of horses as identified
RM-3.2 Give wild horse forage allocations priority over competitive uses
RM-3.7 Restrict ORV use in wild horse ranges as identified on Overlay 66e

Obj. 4 - Protect rare and endangered plants
RM-4.1 Manage land uses to protect and enhance rare and endangered plants

OVERLAY #	RANGE OVERLAYS
5	Vegetation and soil
12	Land treatment and management facilities
34a	Range management trend
35	Grazing allotment and pasture boundaries
35a	Fenced federal rangae
35b	Cattle and sheep trails - sheep use area
35g	Conflict areas - wild horses
36a	Range management improvement areas
36b	Land treatment - intensive opportunities
36e	Access and tenure adjustments
36h	Wild horses

WATERSHEO INOEX

Obj. 1 - Maintain soil stsbility by reducing wind and water erosion on 450,000 acres
WS-1.1 Maintain vegetative cover

OVERLAY #	WATERSHEO OVERLAYS
10	Erosion susceptibility
11	Flood potential
37	Water resources and watershed
42	Watershed management opportunities

WILOLIFE INOEX

Obj. 1 - Manage mule deer summer habitat
WL-1.1 Allocate forage
WL-1.2 Manage for good ecological condition
WL-1.6 Manipulate juniper and sage to provide forage
WL-1.7 Keep roads out of riparian habitats

Obj. 2 - Manage mule deer winter range
WL-2.1 Allocate forage
WL-2.2 Manage to ecological condition of good
WL-2.3 Utilization of shrubs on critical deer winter range will not exceed 30%
WL-2.7 Close critical deer winter ranges to ORV use per Overlay #66e
WL-2.8 No roads in critical winter range
WL-2.9 Retain BLM land & acquire state or private land
WL-2.10 Manage migration areas

Obj. 3 - Based on future goals, manage elk habitat
WL-3.2 If IOF&G recommend elk, then allocate vegetation and constrain uses

Obj. 4 - Maintain & improve antelope habitat
WL-4.1 Allocate forage for antelope by allotment
WL-4.2 Manage sagebrush ecological sites to good ecological condition
WL-4.3 Improve vegetative composition by prescribed burning or mechanical or chemical treatment
WL-4.5 Maintain 1971 horse population levels in antelope areas
WL-4.8 Restrict ORV use on critical winter range per Overlay #66e

Obj. 5 - Manage bighorn sheep habitat
WL-5.1 Forage allocation
WL-5.2 Good ecologic condition management
WL-5.3 Maintain separate use area
WL-5.5 Keep roads out of bighorn habitat
WL-5.7 Acquire private land near Battle Creek

Obj. 6 - Manage potential bighorn sheep habitat
WL-6.1 Permit no habitat alternation until evaluation as potential habitat
WL-6.2 Aquire private lands
WL-6.3 Reserve adequate forage

Obj. 7 - Manage upland game habitat
WL-7.1 Manage face of Owyhee Mountains for upland game habitat
WL-7.2 Improve habitat adjacent to livestock water developments
WL-7.3 Retain isolated tracts, manage for pheasant and Hungarian partridge habitat
WL-7.4 Improve pheasant habitat
WL-7.5 Improve sage grouse habitat
WL-7.6 Maintain sage brush canopy at 20-30 percent in winter habitat
WL-7.7 Improve meadow forbs
WL-7.8 Improve herbaceous cover in brood areas
WL-7.9 Limit ORV use
WL-7.10 No roads, etc., within 2 miles of strutting grounds
WL-7.11 Transplant mountain grouse into Silver City and South Mountain areas

Obj. 8 - Provide waterfowl nesting and brood rearing habitat
WL-8.1 Design livestock systems to increase vegetation
WL-8.3 Reservoir develop mitigation

Obj. 9 - Protect threatened, endangered and sensitive species
WL-9.1 Raptor management
WL-9.4 River Otter habitat
WL-9.6 Kit Fox habitat
WL-9.8 Peregrine Falcon
WL-9.9 Maintain habitat for long billed curlew and western ground snake
WL-9.10 Establish Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area

Obj. 10 - Manage riparian habitat
WL-10.1 Good condition class management
WL-10.3 Fence areas
WL-10.4 Meadow restoration
WL-10.6 No roads in riparian areas

OVERLAY #	WILDLIFE OVERLAYS
43	Endangered and sensitive species
43a	Mule deer
43b	Antelope and elk
43c	Sage grouse
43d	Upland game
43e	Raptors
43f	Condition of riparian habitats
46	Sensitive species
46a	Wildlife and mule deer
46b	Antelope
46c	Upland game
46e	Riparian
46d	Raptors

WILDLIFE-AQUATICS INDEX

Obj. 1 - Expand habitat
1.5 Augment flows on intermittent streams
1.6 Laddering waterfalls for fish passage
1.7 Acquire reservoirs with partial private ownership
1.8 Acquire privately owned reservoirs

Obj. 2 - Improve habitat
2.1 Improve riparian vegetative cover from poor to good
2.2 Improve riparian vegetative cover from fair to good
2.3 Road crossing correction-bridges, to lessen silt problems
2.4 Provide fish passages on weirs and Flint Cr.
2.6 Reduce beaver activity where adverse to fisheries
2.7 Augment stream flows on perennial streams
2.8 Increase in-stream cover
2.10 Road rehabilitation
2.11 Stabilize watershed-steep sloped areas adjecent to riparian areas
2.13 Agricultural areas-provide buffer zones, catchment basins acquire lands and water rights
2.14 Mine tailings-cover or remove

Obj. 3 - Maintain habitat
3.1 Acquire water rights on redband trout and white sturgeon habitats (on unadjudicated water)
3.3 Keep ORV use out of riparian agreas
3.4 Avoid road crossings of streams where possible
3.5 Keep construction activities out of riparian areas
3.6 Control non-point source pollution
3.9 Limit recreation use where use becomes adverse to fisheries/water quality
3.10 Retain federal ownership on riparian areas and acquire non-fed. riparian areas

OVERLAY #	WILDLIFE-AQUATICS OVERLAYS
44	Fisheries physical habitat condition
44a	Water quality for trout
44b	Aquatic and invertebrate diversity
44c	Fisheries conflict and fish introduction areas
65	Fisheries habitat expansion and improvement opportunities

RECREATION INDEX

Obj. 1 - Miscellaneous Recreation Management
1.1 Develop recreation facilities
1.4 Provide environmental education areas
1.6 Retain Bureau lands in public ownership
1.7 Institute protective withdrawals on the proposed Owyhee Wild and Scenic River, Oregon Trail, and townsites in the Silver City - DeLamar Hitoric Districts
1.8 Obtain easements on or across private lands, if opportunity exists
1.9 Support Owyhee Wild and Scenic River designation

Obj. 2 - Visual Resource Management
2.1 Designate lands by VRM class
2.6 Limit vehicle use on VRM Class I areas to existing roads and trails

Obj. 3 - ORV Management
3.1 Establish ORV parks
3.5 Allow unrestricted snowmobile use in certain areas
3.6 Designate ORV areas as open, limited, or closed

Obj. 4 - Hunting and Fishing
4.1 Improve hunting opportunities
4.2 Improve fishing opportunities

Obj. 5 - Water sports
5.1 Support inclusion of Owyhee River section in National Wild and Scenic Rivers System
5.6 Manage free flowing rivers for float boat use

Obj. 7 - Sightseeing (scenic, historical, archaeological, geological, wildlife, botanical)
7.2 Protect scenic values
7.3 Accomodate sightseeing use of historic and archaeological resources
7.4 Accomodate sightseeing use of geologic areas
7.5 Optimize viewing enjoyment of wildlife and wild horses
7.6 Optimize viewing enjoyment of botanical resources

Obj. 8 - Silver City Management
8.1 Protect and enhance scenic and historic values
8.2 Manage for public use and enjoyment as a Special Recreation Management Area
8.3 Legalize occupancy of lots by privately owned buildings
8.4 Protect cultural values
8.5 Conserve natural values
8.6 Provide for public use and enjoyment
8.7 Optimize winter sports activities; designate cross-country skiing and snowmobile areas

Obj. 9 - Oregon Trail Management
9.2 Protect recreation, scenic and cultural values; obtain protective withdrawal;

Obj. 10 - Natural area designation and management
10.1 Oesignate portions of Owyhee River, North Fork of Owyhee River, and Boulder Creek as natural areas
10.2 Protect values and resources of natural areas
10.3 Compatible management of Snake River area as birds of prey habitat

Obj. 11 - Owyhee River designation and management
11.1 Support inclusion of Owyhee River section in National Wild and Scenic Rivers System
11.3 Factors affecting management plans; acquire state and private lands; obtain protective withdrawal on wild river area

Obj. 12 - Oesert Trail study
12.1 Retain bureau lands

Obj. 13 - Special recreation management area designation and management
13.1 Designate 16 special recreation management areas (SRMA's) providing primitive or semi-primitive recreation opportunities.
13.3 Management of special recreation management areas

Obj. 14 - Recreation developments and their management
14.1 High priority areas (Silver City, Jump Creek Falls, Oregon Trail, and motorcycle areas)
14.2 Support public acquisition of potential recreation sites

OVERLAY #	RECREATION OVERLAYS
49a	Historic resources
49b	Recreation sites
49c	Primitive areas
49d	ORV areas
49e	Snowmobile areas
49f	Fishing
50a	Use volume and visual zones
50b	Visual resource management
50c	Wilderness Study Areas
54	Hunting and sightseeing
66a	Recreation sites and access recommendation
66b	Primitive use recommendations
66c	ORV recommendations
66d	ACEC's and proposed land acquisitions
66e	ORV Step 3 decisions

CULTURAL RESOURCES INOEX

Obj. 1 - Maintain historic integrity of Oregon Trail and associated sites
1.1 Retain and protect remnants of Oregon Trail and Kelton Road
1.2 Mitigate present damage to Oregon Trail

Obj. 3 - Preserve historic integrity of homesteads and settlements
3.1 Support socio-cultural values; acquire historic sites; retain historic sites

Obj. 5 - Achieve wise use of cultural resources
5.4 Nominate areas for archaeological districts (Lambert Table, Rooster Comb Peak, Rabbit Creek, Sinker Creek, Castle Butte)

Obj. 7 - Protect significant cultural properties in excellent condition
7.5 No livestock grazing in previously ungrazed areas (Whiskey Mountain, Juniper Spring, Sands Basin, Hardtrigger Pasture #3)

OVERLAY #	CULTURAL RESOURCES OVERLAYS
51	Cultural resources management
51a	Cultural resources condition
51b	Known cultural resources
51c	Cultural resources management
51d	Cultural resources management
51e	Projected archaeological density

WILDERNESS INDEX

Obj. 1 - Identify, protect, and provide wilderness resources for public enjoyment

WL-1.1 Identify WSA's in planning unit P.U. by 1984.

OVERLAY #	WILDERNESS OVERLAYS
52	Inventory

SUPPORT INDEX

Obj. 2 - Fire Management Plan
2.1 Implement Owyhee Area limited suppression plan

Obj. 3 - Transportation
3.3 Appraise and purchase easements

OVERLAY #	SUPPORT OVERLAYS
8	Fire
8b	Resource value at risk
8c	Access - transportation
13	Cadastral survey
14	Aerial photo coverage
no #	Radio communication coverage

Glossary

As in most systems, BLM's Planning System has its own "language." To help you understand some of the terms used in this procedure, a glossary is included for reference.

Allotment Management Plan (AMP) – A detailed plan for intensively managing and improving a specific grazing allotment.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) – A document analyzing the environmental impact of proposed or recommended actions and its alternatives on the human environment. The Owyhee Grazing EIS was prepared between Step 2 and Step 3 of the Owyhee MFP.

Habitat Management Plan (HMP) – A detailed plan to develop and manage a specific area for increased forage production or habitat conditions for aquatic or terrestrial wildlife.

Management Framework Plan (MFP) – A planning decision document which establishes, for a given planning area, land use allocations, coordination guidelines for multiple use, and management objectives to be achieved for each class of land use or protection. It is the Bureau's Land Use Plan. It is prepared in three steps: Step One – Resource Recommendations; Step Two – Impact Analysis and Alternative Development; and Step Three – Decision Making.

Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) – Any vehicle capable of, or designed for, travel on or immediately over land, water, or other natural terrain. Excludes registered motorboats, emergency and government vehicles.

Planning Unit – A portion of the Boise District used for assembling resource inventory data and developing land use plans. For each planning unit the District Manager prepared a Unit Resource Analysis and a Management Framework Plan. The Owyhee Planning Unit coincides with the Owyhee Resource Area, one of four resource management areas in the District.

Public Lands – Public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management. The BLM also manages a federal mineral estate where stewardship is limited to subsurface portions of the land.

Unit Resource Analysis (URA) – A basic source of information on the land and its resources used as one of the foundations of the MFP. It consists of resource maps, physical profile and resource inventory summaries. It also evaluates resource potential and capability of the land to fill the public's need for lands, minerals, recreation, wildlife, watershed, forest products, and range management.

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